

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 25 (canceled).

Claim 26 (currently amended). A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, said computer readable program code configured to:

obtain a first business process data from at least one first trading participant, said first business process data comprising a set of transaction messages having a first data format in accordance with a first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant;

process said first business process data at a process management platform accessible via an interconnection fabric, wherein said process management platform is configured to manage the flow of said transaction messages and monitor said transaction messages, wherein said process management platform is configured to automatically determine at least one of a plurality of second trading participants to satisfy said first business process data;

identify a second protocol for conducting said business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants;

generate a second business process data from said first business process data, the second business process data comprising a set of transaction messages having a data format in accordance with said identified second protocol; and

transmit said second business process data from said process management platform to said at least one of said plurality of second trading participants[[,]] such that said first and second trading participants conduct said business transactions in accordance with their respective protocols for conducting business transactions, wherein said process management platform is configured to process at least one proprietary transaction definition format.

Claim 27 (canceled).

Claim 28 (currently amended). The computer program product of claim 2[[7]]6, wherein said process gateway interfaces with at least one legacy system of one or both of said at least one first trading participant and said at least one of said plurality of second trading participants.

Claim 29 (currently amended). The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said process management platform broadcasts said first business process data to said plurality of second trading participants, said process management platform being further configured to utilize at least one open protocol that defines a business process.

Claim 30 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 26 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to modify said first business process data to conform said first business process data to a uniform format.

Claim 31 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said processing further comprises:

archiving said first business process data in a storage medium.

Claim 32 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 31 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to provide said archived first business process data to an entity for non-repudiation purposes.

Claim 33 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said first business process data comprises at least one partner interface process.

Claim 34 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said first business process data comprises technical information.

Claim 35 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said first business process data comprises item acquisition data.

Claim 36 (canceled).

Claim 37 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said at least one first trading participant comprises an entity utilizing said first business process data.

Claim 38 (original). The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said entity comprises a purchaser.

Claim 39 (original). The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said entity comprises a supplier.

Claim 40 (original). The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said entity comprises a distributor.

Claim 41 (original). The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said entity comprises a manufacturer.

Claim 42 (original). The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said process management platform comprises a plurality of distributed systems.

Claim 43 (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said process management platform comprises a business process interface associated with said at least one first trading participant and said at least one of a plurality of second participants.

Claim 44 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 37 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to provide said at least one first trading participant and said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants access to a business process interface.

Claim 45 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 44 wherein said business process interface is provided via a web browser.

Claim 46 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 44 wherein said business process interface facilitates the transmission of data comprising at least a portion of said business process data.

Claim 47 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 44 wherein said business process interface facilitates the formatting of data comprising at least a portion of said business process data.

Claims 48 – 50 (canceled).

Claim 51 (currently amended). A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code for managing a plurality of business processes, said computer readable program code configured to:

obtain a plurality of business processes from a plurality of first entities wherein said plurality of business processes comprises a sequence of messages linked by a predefined workflow and exchanged over a predefined period of time;

manage said plurality of business processes at a process management platform; and

forward said plurality of business processes from said process management platform to at least one of a plurality of second entities automatically ~~determined to be~~ configured to fulfill said plurality of business processes, said process management platform being configured to process at least one proprietary transaction definition format.

Claims 52 - 60 (canceled).

Claim 61 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 26, wherein said computer program code configured to identify said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants further comprises computer program code configured to determine whether said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants is other than said first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant.

Claim 62 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 61, wherein said first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant is other than said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants.

Claim 63 (previously presented). The computer program product of claim 61, wherein said first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant is said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants.